

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendment, Claims 32 and 35-41 are pending in this application. The present application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 10/414,885, which is a divisional of parent application Serial No. 09/546,817 (now issued as U. S. Patent 6,610,878).

Original Claims 1-45 were subject to restriction in parent application Serial No. 09/546,817. In particular, the claims were divided into the following five groups:

- Group I - Claims 1-6, 30, 31, 33, 34;
- Group II - Claims 15-29, 36-41;
- Group III - Claims 7-14, 42-45;
- Group IV - Claim 32; and
- Group V - Claim 35.

The foregoing Amendment cancels from the present application those claims that were previously granted (Claims 1-6, 30 and 31 in 09/546,817), presently stand allowed (Claims 15-29 in 10/414,885) or are co-pending in a further divisional application (Claims 7-14 and 42-45 in 10/417,283). Thus, the present Claims correspond to claims contained in Groups II, IV and V of the restriction in parent application Serial No. 09/546,817.

Claims 32 and 35-41 are believed to be in patentable form. Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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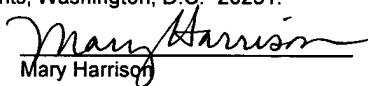
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and the Documents referred to as being enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Mary Harrison